



Porch pipe: Eddie Massart of Brussels takes time out from his gardening duties to smoke a pipe as he

relaxes on his porch with his great-granddaughter Amber Massart.

Tradition runs thick in Brussels

'I could have easily lived back then'

By Lisa Sumter

Press-Gazette

BRUSSELS — People yearning for a hearty Belgian meal of trippe and jutt, or in the mood for an old-fashioned kermis, need not pack for a trip to Europe.

Such Belgian cravings can be satisfied in this Door County community.

In Brussels, heritage is not just a thing of the past. Tradition here runs as thick as the Belgian accents that lace the con-

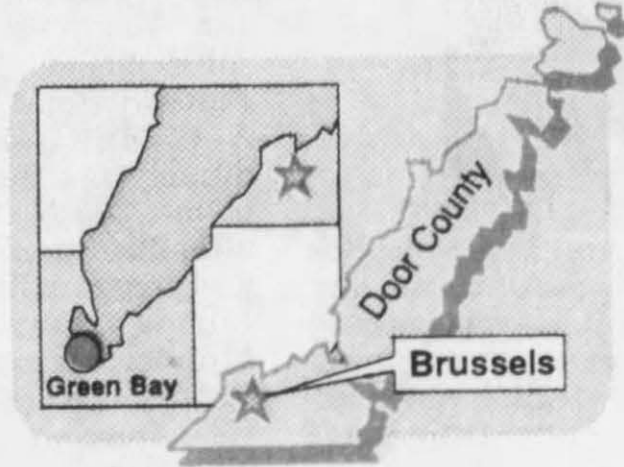
Press-Gazette photos
by John Roemer

versations of
the older
folks.

The center of the community contains a few businesses, but most land is gobbled up by surrounding farms. Notable tenants include a restaurant, two mills, a garage, an auto body shop, and a general store and gas station.

An exuberant woman with a ready smile and a friendly laugh, Mary Ann Englebert, 1453 County Highway C, was delighted to share her Belgian heritage.

"The more I look back through my heritage the more interested I get," she said. "I could have easily lived back then."



She and other residents said interest in Belgian customs waned in years past, but is gaining interest among younger people.

The Engleberts live on a 62-acre dairy farm fronted by a typical Belgian home — a two-story red brick house with concrete arches over the windows and a tin roof. They rent another 145 acres and tend 78 cows.

Donald Englebert and his wife are

Please see **Brussels/B-2**

The Brussels file

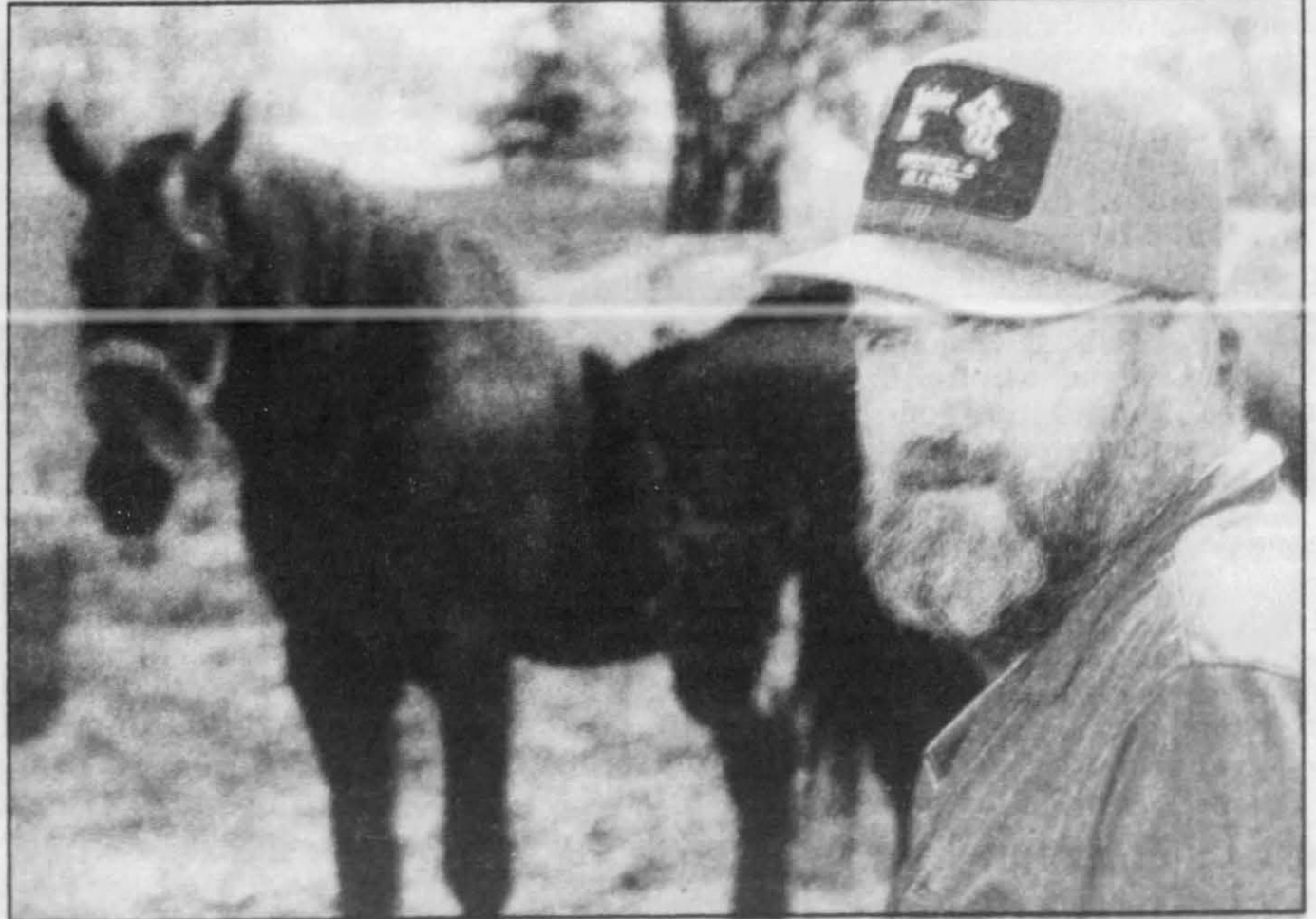
□ **Population:** 1,156
□ **That's entertainment:** Residents say they fill their spare time with a variety of activities, including camping, bowling, trap shooting and golf. The community park is also popular for parties, baseball and softball games, and of course, Belgian Days, July 7-8.

□ **In church:** An eye-catching sight in Brussels is St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. The parish was originally a mission of a church in Namur, where the Rev. Bernard Henry Pennings, founder of the St. Norbert Abbey in De Pere, was pastor. The Rev. Jerome Gloudemans supervised the building of the church and rectory at a cost of \$12,000. He was the first pastor when it became a parish in 1919.

Gloudemans built a grotto in the cemetery, where residents say he wanted to be buried. But he was a member of the Norbertine order, mandating that he be buried in the St. Norbert Abbey cemetery, so the grotto stands empty.



Brussels booster: Mildred Laluezner talks about her community.



Hobby horse: Donald Englebert of Brussels raises draft horses that

often are seen hitched to a wagon in area parades.

Brussels

Brussels natives. Donald grew up with the Belgian language and is still fluent.

"When my brothers started school they didn't speak a word of English," he said. "I go over to my neighbors sometimes and we speak Belgian."

Like many friends and neighbors, the Engleberts are participants in Belgian Days, held one weekend every July.

Mary Ann gets to work at 5 a.m. on Friday, making 200 Belgian pies. She surrounds herself with huge kettles of apple, prune and rice fillings that form the center of these raised-dough delicacies.

Donald takes a spot in the parade to show off his hobby — a team of massive draft horses. One Clydesdale, three Percherons and a pair of Belgians are hitched to a wagon for area parades each summer.

Darrell and Audrey Counard serve a traditional meal of cooked cabbage leaves and onions (jutt) and pork, cabbage and nutmeg sausage (trippe) at Coun's "C" Club, 1315 County Highway C, for Belgian Days.

The couple, owners of the restaurant since 1966, are not Belgian, but absorbed many traditions of their neighbors. They talked about the kermis, a fall harvest celebration held every Sunday in a different area town.

"They used to walk, starting at one kermis one week and getting to the next town in time for the next kermis," Darrell said.

Mildred Laluzerne, 76, 1137 County Highway C, was at Coun's one recent day for a senior citizens outing. She talked about changes she has seen in the Brussels area — the difference in farming, the

businesses that are gone, the cheese factories that once operated.

She said that of her four children, only her oldest son speaks Belgian.

"He speaks it a little bit. He can make himself understood," she said. "He went out on the farm as a boy with his grandma and grandpa and they spoke Belgian."

In a scene that looked like a cover from the *Saturday Evening Post*, Eddie Massart, 9602 School Road, was seated on his front porch, smoking his pipe. He rents the farm he once ran and has left duties at his auto body shop to his grandson Darrel Massart, 1202 Misere Road.

Massart spends his days watching the huge garden in his front yard.

"I just work in the garden now," he said, pointing out the potatoes lettuce, beans and onions that make up his mini-farm.

Darrel Massart has run Massart's Auto Body, 9604 School Road, since 1977. He described Brussels as a quiet place unlike many of its tourist-driven Door County neighbors.

"We don't get a lot of tourists," he said. "You'll see them in the fall driving through to see the colors, but mostly they're highway bound, heading north."

■ **Next week:** Angelica in Shawano County